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# CIA denies role in auto-bombing in Beirut, deaths of 80

WASHINGTON [AP]—The Central Intelligence Agency Monday denied a published report that a CIA-trained group was responsible for a March 8 Beirut car-bombing that killed more than 80 people.

The CIA "never conducted any training of Lebanese security forces related to the events described" in an article in Sunday's editions of the Washington Post, said CIA spokeswoman Patti Volz.

"It also had no foreknowledge of the Lebanese counterterrorist action mentioned in the article," she said.

Responding to complaints from some members of Congress that they had been kept in the dark about the alleged operation, Volz said the agency "scrupulously observes" its commitment to keep congressional oversight committees informed of agency activities.

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Sunday he was seeking more information about the Post report, which

claimed that an antiterrorist group, trained by the CIA but acting without authorization from the agency, was responsible for the bombing.

"I've already started a series of inquiries . . .," the Vermont Democrat said. He said he would raise the issue Monday at the opening of Senate hearings on terrorism.

The White House and State Department refused to discuss the substance of the story, which was based on information from unidentified sources.

The newspaper said President Reagan gave his support late last year to the antiterrorist plan, which was pushed by Secretary of State George Shultz and National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

The plan was designed to stage pre-emptive strikes—including killing suspected terrorists, if necessary—to head off further terrorist attacks on U.S. facilities in the Middle East, the Post said.

Members of one of the counterterrorist groups, acting without

CIA authorization, hired others in Lebanon to detonate the car-bomb outside a Beirut apartment building March 8, the newspaper said.

The entire operation was canceled soon afterward when worried administration and CIA officials realized the indirect connection between the blast and their antiterrorist training program, the newspaper said.

A Lebanese intelligence source was quoted as saying that intelligence personnel of his country and other foreigners carried out the

bombing, which was intended to kill Hussein Fadlallah, a suspected terrorist and leader of the Hezbollah, a militant Shiite Moslem movement.

Fadlallah was suspected of involvement in terrorist attacks on U.S. installations, including the suicide bombing of a marine headquarters and the bombing of the U.S. Embassy annex, the Post said.

Fadlallah escaped injury in the blast.

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